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Hunted doctor personifies Nazi evil

By Miles Cunningham
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Dr. Josef Mengele, the anti-Christ, turned 74 this month.

No person alive today so personifies the brand of evil invented and perfected by the Nazis as Dr. Mengele.

It is said to be dangerous, perhaps even fatal, to get close to Dr. Mengele even now, 40 years after the Nazis were crushed.

Ladislav Farago, in his book "Aftermath," said that 20 years ago 12 young Jews in Brazil determined to kidnap Dr. Mengele. Then this:

"The group moved to Porto Mendes, on the Brazilian side of the Parana River, while two of them crossed the stream, to reconnoiter the terrain. They were next seen with their throats cut from ear to ear, floating down the river, their arms outstretched as if crucified."

He was born March 16, 1911, in Guenzburg, Germany, the third son of a wealthy manufacturer of farm machinery.

By most accounts he was a dark-haired, handsome man, 5-foot-9, with blue eyes and a trim mustache. Or was he, as some recall, somewhat shorter and dark as a gypsy? From



a 1959 photo, taken in Buenos Aires where he was briefly detained, Dr. Mengele peers serenely.

Dr. Mengele has been sighted variously in Europe and South America over the years. He was seen in Paraguay in 1979 even after he was stripped of his Paraguayan citizenship, according to Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Los Angeles.

Recently declassified documents reveal that the Central Intelligence Agency had reports in 1971 of Dr. Mengele's deep involvement in the narcotics traffic from Paraguay.

There has been a warrant for the arrest of Dr. Mengele at least since 1959. There is a 1981 arrest order from Frankfurt, Germany, in which he is described as the administrative camp physician with the rank of SS chief leader at the extermination

camp of Auschwitz, Poland. Among other things, that document asserts that Dr. Mengele:

- Forced a group of pregnant women to lie on a floor where he "kicked and jumped with his feet on the stomachs of the women until they aborted the babies."

- "... took the newborn boys of prisoner woman S. and threw them in the fire while they were still alive."

- In 1944, "killed an unknown number of people to prepare their eyes for experiments."

- Performed X-ray radiation experiments on a group of Polish nuns.

- Conducted many experiments on twins and midgets after which the midget or surviving twin of an experiment was killed to permit an autopsy.

- To provide specimens for autopsies, killed or ordered killed by shooting in the back of the head; about 100 children.

In one of his more infamous acts, Dr. Mengele responded when prisoners complained of vermin in their barracks: he had the place fumigated with the prisoners inside.

They called him the Angel of Death.